

**WASHINGTON, DC--**U.S. Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-Springfield) will attend a bill signing ceremony on **Monday, June 20, 2011**

for state HB 3596, which officially annexes the Coos Bay Rail Line into the Port of Coos Bay's port district. The Port already owns the rail line, but annexing it into the port district gives the Port eligibility to apply for additional grants and loans not otherwise available to them.

DeFazio will join Governor John Kitzhaber, state legislators, and Port of Coos Bay officials at a b

**ill signing ceremony in the Governor's Ceremonial Conference Room at the State Capitol.**

The rail line runs from Danebo in West Eugene to Coquille in Coos County.

## **Background**

The Coos Bay Rail Line was embargoed by the Central Oregon and Pacific Railroad (CORP), a subsidiary of Fortress/RailAmerica, in September 2007. The embargo resulted in the loss of hundreds of jobs and negatively impacted businesses in Southwest Oregon. Since CORP embargoed the Coos Bay Rail Line, DeFazio has worked with the Port of Coos Bay, and state, and local shippers to get the line reopened.

In 2008, DeFazio testified before the Federal Surface Transportation Board and requested they approve the Port's application to force the sale of the line to the Port from CORP. In March 2009, DeFazio secured \$8 million in federal funds to help the Port buy the rail line.

Later, DeFazio played the critical role in the Port winning a U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) grant of \$13.5 million to finish repairs on the Coos Bay Rail Line. The USDOT fast-tracked the response and awarded the grant to the Port in October 2010.

Monday, June 20th:

11:30 AM-11:45 AM HB 3596 Bill Signing

Oregon State Capitol

Governor's Ceremonial Conference Room

Salem, OR

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